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Letter dated 9 October 2006 from the Permanent Representative of Finland to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to draw your attention to the declaration on the elections in Zambia, issued on 6 October 2006 by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union (see annex).

I would be grateful if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Kirsti **Lintonen**
Permanent Representative of Finland to the United Nations

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Annex to the letter dated 9 October 2006 from the Permanent Representative of Finland to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: English, French and Spanish]

Declaration by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union on elections in Zambia

The European Union welcomes the holding of the democratic tripartite elections in Zambia on 28 September 2006, and the strong commitment of the people of Zambia to democratic development demonstrated by the high turnout of voters. The European Union congratulates the President, Levy Mwanawasa, on his victory and his second mandate as the President of the Republic of Zambia, and congratulates the Members of Parliament and local Councillors elected. The European Union calls upon all candidates and political parties to respect the outcome of the democratic process.

The European Union is pleased to note that the elections have been considered by international observers, in particular by the European Union Election Observation Mission in its preliminary assessment, as generally peaceful and well managed. Voting took place in a largely calm and orderly environment, and the processing of results was transparent. The independence and professionalism of the Electoral Commission of Zambia have created confidence in the process. The European Union notes the important and positive role that the civil society organizations have played before and during the elections. The European Union considers that the elections represent another positive example, for the region and the continent, of participatory democracy in action, an area to which both the African Union and the European Union attach the highest importance.

While there has been marked improvement in the conduct of elections, challenges remain. There is still some need for improvement and reform of the legal framework as well as a need to ensure a level playing field. The number of women standing as candidates has also remained extremely low.

The European Union reiterates its determination to continue to support the Republic of Zambia in its efforts to strengthen democratic processes, foster good governance, fight against corruption and alleviate poverty.

The acceding countries Bulgaria and Romania, the candidate countries Turkey, Croatia[1] and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia,[1] the countries of the Stabilization and Association Process and potential candidates Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Republic of Montenegro, and Serbia, and the European Free Trade Association countries Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway, members of the European Economic Area, as well as Ukraine and Moldova, align themselves with this declaration.

[1] Croatia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia continue to be part of the Stabilization and Association Process.